

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND  
COMMUNICATIONS HONOURABLE MR. D.K. KWELAGOBÉ AT  
MINISTERIAL SEGMENT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP3) TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)  
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Mr. President, allow me, first of all, to take this opportunity to extend, on behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf, warm congratulations to you on your election to the challenging position of President of COP3. We are confident that through your wisdom, experience and able leadership you will ably guide our deliberations towards sound and fruitful conclusions.

Mr. President, Botswana as a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is committed to the successful implementation of the convention and has, since becoming a Party 3 years ago,

taken the necessary steps in this regard. It will be recalled that I reported during COP2 in Geneva that Botswana was in the process of preparing her initial Communication in accordance with articles 4 and 12 of the convention.

I am pleased, Mr. President, to report that this work is now at an advanced stage and that a report covering our inventory of greenhouse gases will soon be submitted to the Convention Secretariat.

I therefore wish to express my gratitude for the financial support given to my Government through the United States Country Study Programme to address climate change as well as the UNDP Global Environment Facility.



Mr. President, it will also be recalled that during the first session of the Conference of Parties (COP1) a decision was taken to strengthen the commitments made in Article 4 of the Convention and this culminated in the adoption of the Berlin Mandate. In accordance with this Mandate, a Protocol or another legal instrument was to be negotiated in order to strengthen commitments of Annex 1 Parties, without introducing any new commitments for developing country Parties. This guideline has been observed during the negotiation process by the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate for a Protocol.

Mr. President, Botswana and the Southern African countries are facing an impending drought associated with the current El Nino Southern Oscillation phenomena. This

is expected to cause a serious reduction in the seasonal rainfall of the Region. The drought will, without doubt, aggravate the poverty situation in the region and will compel Governments to drastically change their priorities and to divert their limited resources in order to address urgent needs such as food shortages, lack of drinking water as well as the need to provide social security to vulnerable groups.

The Climate Change Convention is aimed at reducing and limiting the greenhouse gases that are not controlled under the Montreal Protocol. Botswana as a developing country Party is already taking appropriate steps to address climate change and related issues, and these include the development of technologies to utilise renewable sources of



energy. In this regard, Botswana is currently harvesting Solar Power for rural electrification as a way of reducing the need and demand to burn coal. I wish to point out however, that in order to meet the growing demand for electrical power supply, it is very important for Botswana to obtain clean coal technologies so that the development and economic processes are not disrupted by restrictions on coal burning since it is the only source of electrification.

These technologies though highly essential in limiting and reducing greenhouse gases are very expensive. In this respect, technical support in the form of transfer of technologies and financial resources are required to ensure that the protection of the atmosphere and reduction of

greenhouse gases is not done at the expense of economic growth and development.

Other measures being taken by Botswana to reduce the greenhouse gases are public awareness campaigns to educate and sensitise members of the public and industry on these issues as a way of fostering ownership and partnership for a successful implementation of the Convention and its associated Protocols. Resources have been allocated in Botswana National Development Plan 8 to strengthen the systematic observation and research capabilities.

New observing stations will be opened to increase data collection points and additional facilities will be set up to



utilise existing advanced space based satellite technologies to augment the surface station network. This is aimed at bridging the data and knowledge gaps and reducing scientific uncertainties emanating from insufficient data especially from developing countries in accordance with relevant World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Programmes.

Mr President, Africa and other developing countries have contributed the least to the threat of climate change. It is unfortunate that inspite of this, Africa is the most vulnerable to the risks of climate change and is least prepared to cope with associated changes as widespread poverty limit capabilities for mitigation and adaptation measures. It is therefore imperative that relevant

technologies and financial resources are made available to meet specific needs and concerns of developing country Parties in accordance with Article 4.8 and other relevant Articles of the Convention.

In conclusion, Mr President, it is my hope and prayer that the Protocol or another legal instrument, which COP3 is about to adopt, will come up with clear and definite commitments to strengthen the commitments as set out in Article 4 of the Convention. Developed country Parties included in Annex I are therefore expected to take a leading role in setting the pace to limit and to reduce greenhouse gases not controlled under the Montreal Protocol. Definite



commitments should be agreed upon as envisaged under the Protocol.

Thank you Mr President.